



September, 2018

Re: Mesker Park Zoo Veterinary Department volunteer and job shadow applicants

Background: The veterinary department at the zoo consists of staff veterinarian Carrie Ullmer, DVM and veterinary technician Kristine VanHoosier, RVT. Both Dr. Ullmer and Kristine are excited to share what they do at the zoo with volunteers and those requesting “shadow” experiences. Unfortunately, we receive more requests for these types of experiences than we can accommodate. This is due to limitations in our staffing, caseload, and availability.

In general, we require that students have prior experience in the veterinary field. Zoological medicine is unique in multiple respects, and those who shadow here will benefit much more from the experience if they already understand the basic principles of animal health and welfare. If you are interested in pursuing an opportunity with the vet department, please note the application requirements listed below.

Under 18 years of age: Unfortunately, due to the nature of the work in our veterinary department, we cannot accommodate volunteer or shadow requests for this age group. Please keep us in mind as you get further in your educational journey and apply once you have fulfilled the other requirements.

College students: If you are at least a college junior working toward a pre-veterinary degree, you may request to shadow the veterinary department IF you can document previous shadow or work experience with another veterinarian (e.g. small/large animal private practice). College students must submit a current resume noting these prior experiences in order to be considered.

Veterinary students: Opportunities for veterinary students depend on coursework requirements, prior experience, and availability. Official externship experiences for credit can be challenging to fulfill at this institution given current staffing levels and scheduling, but students may contact Dr. Ullmer directly (see below) to discuss options – please submit your resume at the time of the request. Unfortunately, we cannot currently offer any stipend nor housing for students at this point in time.

Veterinary Technician students: We are happy to accommodate veterinary technology students for shadowing or official externships. In order to be competitive, students should have experience in the veterinary field outside of what is learned in school. Please submit a current resume for consideration.

**Application:**

Name:

Dates Requested:

Resume attached? Y / N

**\*\*Please note volunteers/shadows will need to fill out a liability waiver, and a current TB test may be required.\*\***

**Forward to: [cullmer@meskerparkzoo.com](mailto:cullmer@meskerparkzoo.com)**